(a) a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group of SEQ ID NOs: 5 to 8, 10, 12, 13, 21 to 24, 26 to 29, 32, 33, 37 to 40, 46, 48, 54, and 60;and,

(b) a polypeptide that suppresses neuronal death associated with Alzheimer's disease having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 5 to 8, 10, 12, 13, 21 to 24, 26 to 29, 32, 33, 37 to 40, 46, 48, 54, and 60, wherein one or more amino acids have been substituted, deleted, inserted, and/or added.

Q1

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. A fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide of any of claims 1 to 2 fused with one or more other polypeptides.

Q2

{Please amend claim 5 as follows:}

5. A DNA encoding the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 2, or a fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide of any of claims 1 to 2 fused with one or more other polypeptides.

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

8. A method for producing the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 2, comprising the steps of culturing a host cell retaining a vector into which a DNA encoding any one of claims 1 to 2, or a fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide of any of claims 1 to 2 fused with one or more other polypeptides, is inserted, and recovering the expressed polypeptide from the host cell or culture supernatant thereof.

Q3

{Please amend claim 9 as follows:}

9. A method for suppressing neuronal death comprising the step of contacting a neuron with the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 2.

{Please amend claim 10 as follows:}

10. A method for detecting a cell death suppressing activity of the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 2, comprising the steps of:

(a) inducing cell death in the presence of the polypeptide,

(b) detecting level of cell death; and,

(c) comparing the level detected in step (b) with that occurring in the absence of the polypeptide.

{Please amend claim 11 as follows:}

A3

11. A method for detecting the effect of a chemical compound on neuronal death suppressing activity of a polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 2, comprising the steps of:

(a) inducing neuronal death in the presence of a test compound and the polypeptide;

(b) detecting the level of neuronal death; and,

(c) comparing the level detected in step (b) with that occurring in the absence of the compound.

{Please amend claim 12 as follows:}

12. A method of screening for a chemical compound that regulates the neuronal death suppressing activity of the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 2, comprising the steps of:

(a) inducing neuronal death in the presence of a test compound and the polypeptide,

(b) detecting the level of neuronal death,

(c) comparing the level detected in step (b) with that occurring in the absence of the compound; and,

(d) selecting the compound that enhances or suppresses neuronal death.

Please amend claim 13 as follows:

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising as the effective component the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 2 or a vector into which a DNA encoding the polypeptide is inserted.

a3

Please amend claim 14 as follows:

14. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, wherein said composition acts as a neuronal death suppressant.

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

15. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, comprising an amount of the polypeptide or the vector effective to prevent or treat diseases that are accompanied by neurodegeneration.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

16. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, comprising an amount of the polypeptide or the vector effective to prevent or treat Alzheimer's disease.

{Please amend claim 17 as follows:}

17. An antibody that binds to the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 2.

{Please amend claim 18 as follows:}

18. A DNA for detecting or manipulating DNA encoding the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 2, wherein the DNA comprises at least 15 nucleotides that are complementary to a DNA consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 or to a complementary strand thereof.

Q3

{Please amend claim 19 as follows:}

19. A method of screening for a chemical compound that binds to the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 2, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting a test compound with the polypeptide,

(b) detecting the binding activity between the test compound and the polypeptide, and,

(c) selecting the compound that has the activity to bind to the polypeptide.